

SACRAMENTO AREA FLOOD CONTROL AGENCY AND PLACER COUNTY
FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
JOINT PUBLIC HEARING
MINUTES

DRY CREEK WATERSHED FLOOD CONTROL AND
ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT PROJECT
THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2003
3:00 P.M.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS
700 H STREET, ROOM 1450
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
916.874.7606

1. WELCOMING REMARKS

Tim Washburn, Counsel for SAFCA stated that the public hearing today is for the Dry Creek Watershed Flood Control and Environmental Enhancement Project. The State Department of Water Resources will be funding a significant portion of this project under their Proposition 13 program. They are required under the regulations and guidelines associated with Proposition 13 to hold a public hearing with notice to all the property owners that may be affected by the project and to give them an opportunity for any comments they may have. This meeting will adjourn today and continue again September 18, 2003 at 3:00 P.M. in the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors Chambers. The Department of Water Resources will open and conduct this hearing.

2. OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

Jo Turner, Environmental Program Manager, State Department of Water Resources (DWR) opened the Public Hearing stating a decision had been made to award the SAFCA and the Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) \$2,416,355 in funding to receive in this application under the Flood Protection Corridor Program for the Dry Creek Watershed Flood Control and Environmental Restoration Enhancement Project. The purpose for today's hearing is to receive public comments concerning the release of these funds to SAFCA and the District. Jo explained the ground rules for today's hearing and asked all attending to sign in and include email addresses to receive notification of future developments. All speakers need to identify themselves. Additional public input can be submitted in writing to DWR prior to the September 18, 2003 meeting.

Jo explained the background of the Flood Protection Corridor Grant Program. It began with voter approval in March 2000 with Proposition 13. This portion of the Proposition provided funding for innovative projects that developed non-structural approaches designed to avoid or reduce flood problems. Non-structural approaches include; levy removal, levy setbacks, recontouring to provide floodplain area, widening storm water advance channels, removing structures within the floodplain and raising structures above flood level. Also, placing controls on land and flood plains to preclude development in those areas that are prone to flooding.

Flood management actions are either agricultural or restoration for these funds. In response to the 2002-2003 grant proposal request the State received 45 applications totaling \$123 million. The review and evaluation process came from several panels of experts representing a variety of professions and State Agencies. There were 15 projects that were placed on the priority list. Up to 14 of the 45 projects are being recommended for total funding at \$29.1 million.

3. PRESENTATION ON PROJECT MEASURES FOR THE SACRAMENTO AREA FLOOD CONTROL AGENCY – TIM WASHBURN, AGENCY COUNCEL

Tim Washburn stated his appreciation to the Department of Water Resources in recognizing the project in the Dry Creek Watershed. Tim explained the importance in terms of creating a relationship between the public that reside in lower part of the watershed in Sacramento County and the upper part of the watershed in Placer County. SAFCA will be responsible for acquiring a fee title to properties in the lower Dry Creek floodplain. These properties will become a part of the publicly owned Dry Creek Parkway in Sacramento County. SAFCA will also be responsible for procuring open space easements in an area outside of the publicly owned Dry Creek Parkway, but still within the boundaries of the 100-year floodplain. The idea of this element to the program, SAFCA will encourage the owners the sale of easement to SAFCA to preserve the rural residential character of these properties that will be on the boarder of the parkway.

The third project that SAFCA is working on is the restoration of the Hayer dam. The purpose of this project is to reconstruct the dam to make it a more passive structure, no longer requiring human intervention to produce water for diversion. Also, the diversion would be screened so the fish don't enter the ski lakes. The restoration will be designed so that mature fish can make their way upstream and young fish can make their way downstream. There is an active spawning population of salmon in this portion of the Dry Creek.

SAFCA will need to reach agreement with the property owners on the sale of their property so the removal of structures can be done. If SAFCA reaches an agreement, the grant from DWR would pay the non-federal share of the cost of this damage removal program, which is mostly funded by FEMA. So FEMA puts up 75% of the cost, they require a 25% match, the DWR grant would provide the 25% if we can reach agreement with the property owners. In total, this is about 87 acres and would become part of the publicly owned Dry Creek Parkway and would leave SAFCA will a small number of privately owned parcels within this overall publicly owned parkway corridor. The open space easement acquisitions would occur adjoining the publicly owned parkway.

SAFCA has \$125,000 in grant money and \$125,000 in match money, or \$250,000 for acquisitions in this area. In particular, we would be targeting property owners with 4 or 5-acre rural estates to see if they would be interested in conveying an easement to SAFCA. This easement would commit them to maintain the open space on those properties.

The next project is the renovation of the Hayer Dam from its current condition. Currently the dam is fenced off. SAFCA and County Parks think this is a hazardous structure and because it is now in public ownership there are inherent liabilities. The concept of the project is to remove the existing structure and to replace it either with a low weir that would create a pond 2 to 3 feet high that would allow the water to be fed in to a diversion point, routed over to sub pump and delivered to aqua for maintenance their water ski lakes. Alternatively it is possible that we can look for a more naturalistic structure essentially grading the creek into a series of steps that would allow some water but maintain a more naturalistic move to the creek. This would accommodate fish moving up and down the stream at all times of the year. SAFCA will be forming a Public Advisory Committee to work with us through the design process because this is a top priority due to the liability concerns with the existing structure.

Downstream from the Hayer dam is the non-engineered private levees that were constructed by the property owners. The concept here is to pull these out of the channel and allow the bank to naturally restore itself. This will permit more regular overflow into the surrounding floodplain, reduce erosion and allow the creek to recuperate from the placement of these materials. The last element is the removal of Red Sesbania, a non-native weed that is rapidly infesting many portions of Dry Creek. This is a very aggressive colonizer. It likes to occupy the banks of the creek. It is a long-term threat to the environmental quality of the creek. SAFCA has received \$372,000 to mount a campaign against this plant throughout the watershed. The specifics of this project have not yet been developed. SAFCA has had experience in eradicating this plant from the American River Parkway and hopes to transfer that experience into this effort in Dry Creek.

Fee title acquisition is about \$1.4 million and the open space easements are about \$250,000 split 50/50. The Hayer dam renovation is estimated of \$425,000 with again a 50/50 split. The removal of the private levee is \$200,000 with a 50/50 split and then the removal of the weed is \$372,000 all of which is coming from the grant. This totals 2.6 million of which SAFCA is getting 1.3 million from DWR. Tim concluded that SAFCA was very happy to get this grant and hopes to get underway with these projects as quickly as possible.

4. PRESENTATION ON PROJECT MEASURES FOR THE PLACER COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT – BRIAN KEATING, DISTRICT ENGINEER

Brian Keating stated that the District is pleased to be here today with SAFCA and DWR to accept and hear comment on this grant award. With this grant the District will be able to pursue a project that has been in the works for over five years. It's the first of a regional detention project along a major tributary to Dry Creek, the Miner's Ravine. The project is located north of Douglas Boulevard just off of Sierra College Boulevard on 26 acres of privately owned property. The project in general is referred to as our Miner's Ravine Off-Channel Flood Detention Basin Facility, rather than an on-channel project that has been proposed here in the past.

Brian also stated that he is pleased to announce we have reached an agreement with the property owner on title acquisition. District staff will go to our Board on September 8, 2003 with a recommendation for a purchase agreement as well as a grant deed acceptance for the property. Brian reviewed some of the project specifics beginning with the general area of the detention basin, which covers approximately 18 acres.

Currently Miner's Ravine crosses Sierra College Boulevard and is then channelized up against the toe of the south slope with an embankment. One of the portions of this project includes restoration of that channel as a multi-objective type of project. The embankment would be offset to allow more natural meandering of the creek. The creek will also be restored from the standpoint that the channel will have an improved pool/riffle sequence with complexity added. The non-native and invasive vegetation species would be removed and replaced. There are existing wetlands at this site and this is a former sewage treatment facility. As part of the project the initial grading would disturb wetland areas but they would be rehabilitated and protected. Brian explained that other components of the project include a recreational trail that would run through the northern part of the site connecting to an existing trail corridor system. Along the Sierra College frontage, an interpreter center as well as a trailhead parking area would likely be included.

The detention concept is for the basin to take off peak flow at a storm event yet to be determined, but likely somewhere in the range of a 10 or 25-year event. Preliminary estimates are that we have 310 cfs of peak flow reduction and approximately 36-acre fee of additional volume stored water. That water would be stored in the basin for about a 24-hour period.

Brian explained how operation of the gravity-draining basin would occur. There is an inlet weir and an outlet culvert system. With this, the basin would start to fill at the design storm and then slowly drain. The project benefits include mitigation up to 50% of the peak flow increase that has occurred since 1989 in this watershed due to development. The primary flood control benefits would be to the City of Roseville. In three recent events in the past this area has been declared a disaster area due to flooding. Brian concluded by stating that the cost of the total of project is approximately 3.8 million including land acquisition and frontage improvements. The \$1 million grant from DWR, will cover about a quarter of the project costs. The remaining funds are coming from the Dry Creek Trust Fund, which consists of assessments that are collected from the cities as well as Sacramento County and Placer County.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Phillip Todd with Bell Aqua organization explained that he has been in the community for 27 years with their park, which is a training facility for tournament water skiers along with a practice site. Phillip stated that the water from the creek is a big part of their park for years. He encourages this concept of a weir that could be built and that it would provide additional water to the facility. Phillip concluded by thanking everyone for this.

Shellie Sulenger with Bell Aqua also wanted to reiterate what Phill Todd stated. Shellie stated that this would benefit the community of Rio Linda because there is a park that the kids have been using a dam to cross the creek to get to the bike path that goes through the Sacramento area, so the improvements that are being proposed today not only keep our great skiing water but will be an asset to the community and the environment.

Robert Neilson had a question why the North Fork and Dry Creek wasn't being looked at because it hasn't flowed in the last several years. Pete Ghelfi with SAFCA stated that there could be an opportunity to see what could be done to remove that restriction that prevents the water into the North branch of Dry Creek and allow some water to flow down. We will pass that concern on to the Park Way Committee to see if this could be done.

Erwin Hyer explained that the water on the North Channel flows in the wintertime when the water is high, but it has been reduced in the summer because of the changes in the stream dam at the upper end of Cherry Island golf course. Erwin would like to receive a copy of the first map that Tim Washburn presented because of his concern regarding the levies.

Jo Turner asked for any written comments to come forward. None.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Jo Turner adjourned the meeting to reconvene September 18, 2003 at 3:00 P.M. to continue the hearing. Brian Keating added that the Districts continuance would be October 20, 2003 and to finalize at that time.